

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 ACDA-12 EB-08 COM-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13
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DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:GAR
APPROVED BY H:DJBENNET
-----039930 070554Z /21
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170888

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GH, US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY BENNET LUNCHESES WITH
GHANAIAAN AMBASSADOR

REF: A) ACCRA 5349; B) ACCRA 5401

1. ON JULY 6, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL
RELATIONS BENNET LUNCHESED WITH GHANAIAAN AMBASSADOR QUAISON-
SACKEY ACCOMPANIED BY CONSUL GENERAL B. K. NKITSIAH FROM
NEW YORK. LUNCH HAD BEEN ARRANGED WELL BEFOREHAND, AT
QUAISON-SACKEY'S SUGGESTION, TO DISCUSS U.S. CONSTITUTION
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO GHANA'S RETURN TO CIVILIAN
RULE. HOWEVER, THE OCCASION PROVIDED AN EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS ON GHANAIAAN POLICY
FOLLOWING ACHEAMPONG'S RESIGNATION.

2. BENNET MADE THREE POINTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE
LEADERSHIP SHOULD PRESS HARD NOW TO INSTITUTE AND CARRY
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OUT ECONOMIC REFORMS. HE UNDERLINED OUR EXPECTATION THAT
THE NEW LEADERSHIP WOULD NOT DELAY THE SCHEDULED RETURN
TO CIVILIAN RULE. HE SUGGESTED THAT GHANA'S REPUTATION
ABROAD WOULD BE ENHANCED IF THOSE DETAINED BY ACHEAMPONG
AFTER THE REFERENDUM WERE RELEASED PROMPTLY. BENNET
MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS SUMMARIZING THE VIEWS OF THE

DEPARTMENT. QUAISON-SACKEY NOTED, BUT DID NOT COMMENT, ON BENNET'S POINTS.

3. QUAISON-SACKEY WAS VERY POORLY INFORMED ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ACHEAMPONG'S RESIGNATION. BENNET DREW ON REF A TO OUTLINE THE FACTS IN OUR POSSESSION. QUAISON-SACKEY ASKED IF COMMISSIONER FOR FINANCE A. K. APPIAH HAD BEEN PRESENT WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACHEAMPONG'S RESIGNATION HAD BEEN MADE TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. BENNET REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT THAT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY. (WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF THIS.) QUAISON-SACKEY SAID APPIAH'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND CONVERSATIONS WITH THE IMF "LAST WEEK" HAD BEEN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL. HE SPECULATED THAT IT HAD BEEN ACHEAMPONG'S REFUSAL TO PUT THESE SUGGESTIONS INTO EFFECT THAT HAD LED TO DEMANDS FOR HIS RESIGNATION.

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Message Attributes

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